

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SEOUL 05575 050931Z

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S E C R E T SEOUL 5575

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EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV SHUM KS US

SUBJ: NATIONAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS

REF: SEOUL 5552

1. NATIONAL ASSEMBLY HAS NOT AGREED ON TEXT OF TWO RESOLUTIONS AND ONE RECOMMENDATION DEALING RESPECTIVELY WITH TROOP WITHDRAWAL, KIM HYONG-WOOK AFFAIR, AND DOMESTIC POLITICS (SEE REFTEL AND OTHER RELATED TELS).

2. AS YOU WILL SEE, RESOLUTIONS ON TROOP WITHDRAWAL AND KIM KYONG-WOOK AFFAIR ARE DIRECTED AT US IN CRITICAL MANNER, ALTHOUGH I AM INFORMED THAT LANGUAGE IS SOFTER THAN SOME IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY WOULD HAVE PREFERRED. RECOMMENDATION, ON OTHER HAND, IS DIRECTED AT PRDSIDENT PARK AND IN ARTFUL MANNER SUGGESTS "GENEROUS" TREATMENT FOR MYONGDONG AND OTHER VIOLATORS OF EMERGENCY DECREES AS WELL AS SUGGESTING CONDITIONS FOR LIFTING EMERGENCY DECREE 9. WHILE THIS RECOMMENDATION IS FAR FROM RADICAL DEPARTURE FROM CURRENT POLICIES, IT REPRESENTS A MILESTONE BOTH IN DUSGGESTING EMERGENCY MEASURE 9 COULD BE LIFTED, WHICH WAS FORMERLY VERBOTEN, AND IN URGING BY IMPLICATION RELEASE OF MYONGDONG AND OTHER DEFENDANTS. RELEASE OF DEFENDANTS WOULD THEN COME AS RESPONSE TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY RATHERN THAN TO SO-CALLED U.S. PRESSURE.

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3. DURING MY JULY 4 RECEPTION SPEAKER CHUNG, OPPOSITION NDP LEADER YI CHUL SUNG AND OTHER SENIOR ASSEMBLY MEMBERS URGED THAT WE NOT TAKE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ACTIONS AT FACE VALUE AND RECOGNIZE THAT IN LARGE PART PRICE OF RECOMMENDATION TO PRESIDENT PARK ON EM-9 DEFENDANTS WAS RESOLUTIONS ON TROOP WITHDRAWAL AND "ANTI-KOREAN GOVERNMENT

ACTIVITIES IN U.S." THEY ALL SAID THAT THERE WERE STRONG FEELINGS REGARDING LATTER TWO ISSUES AND PARTICULARLY DEEP RESENTMENT THAT KIM HYONG-WOOK WOULD BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY AS "FREEDOM FIGHTER," GIVEN HIS REPUTATION FOR BRUTALITY DURING HIS KCIA DAYS. THEY ALSO RECOGNIZE OUR INHERENT UNHAPPINESS WITH CONTINUED RESISTANCE TO TROOP WITHDRAWAL AS WELL AS CALLS FOR "APPROPRIATE MEASURES" AGAINST ANTI-KOREAN ACTIVITIES WHICH THEY KNOW ARE VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO IMPLEMENT.

4. WITH MYONGDONG AND OTHER DEFENDANTS STILL IN JAIL, IT IS OF COURSE TOO EARLY TO HAVE ANY SENSE OF REAL ACCOMPLISHMENT. BUT, I DO SENSE THAT WE HAVE MOVED THE HUMAN RIGHTS BALL A FEW YARDS FORWARD. I WOULD ACCORDINGLY URGE THAT, IN COMMENT UPON ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS AND RECOMMENDATION, WE REFRAIN FROM TAKING ANY CREDIT FOR NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ACTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND TAKE NOTE OF ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS ON OTHER TWO MATTERS, POINTING OUT U.S. VIEWS ON THESE ISSUES ALREADY MATTER OF PUBLIC RECORD.
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